

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a dirt path. They are positioned in front of a large, rustic stone wall made of irregular, light-colored rocks. The man on the left is wearing a dark green robe and has a light-colored bag slung over his shoulder. The man on the right is wearing a dark purple or brown robe. The background shows some greenery, including a tree trunk on the left and some bushes on the right. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be in a rural or historical setting.

**“My Eyes Have Seen”**  
**Luke 2:22-40**

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**Melbourne Community Church**  
**December 23, 2018**

The background of the slide is a photograph of two individuals, likely men, walking away from the camera on a narrow, rocky path. They are dressed in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings. The path is flanked by a low wall of rough-hewn stones on the left and a taller, more structured stone wall on the right. The overall scene is outdoors, with some sparse green vegetation and a tree trunk visible on the far left.

# What will we learn?

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- ❖ Success and usefulness are defined by God.
- ❖ The Good News of Jesus requires a response.

## Luke 1-2

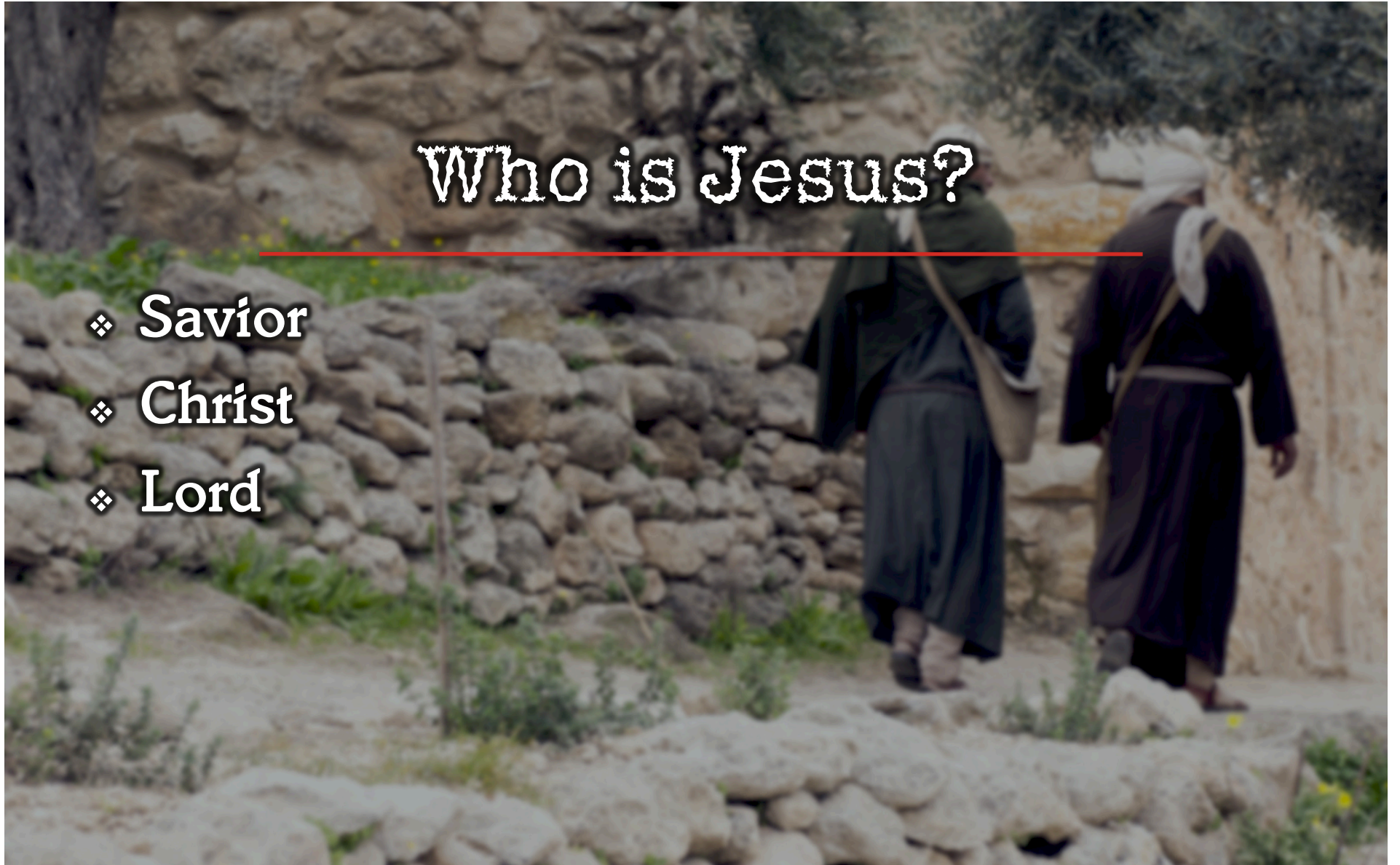
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- ❖ Gabriel and Zechariah (1:5-25)
- ❖ Gabriel and Mary (1:26-38)
- ❖ Mary's song (1:39-56)
- ❖ Birth of John the Baptist (1:57-66)
- ❖ Zechariah's song (1:67-80)
- ❖ Birth of Jesus (2:1-7)

# Who is Jesus?

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- ❖ Savior
- ❖ Christ
- ❖ Lord





## Luke 2:22-23

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When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and white head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The background consists of a large, rough stone wall and some sparse green vegetation. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Luke 2:24

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and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

# Israel

at the time of  
the birth of Christ

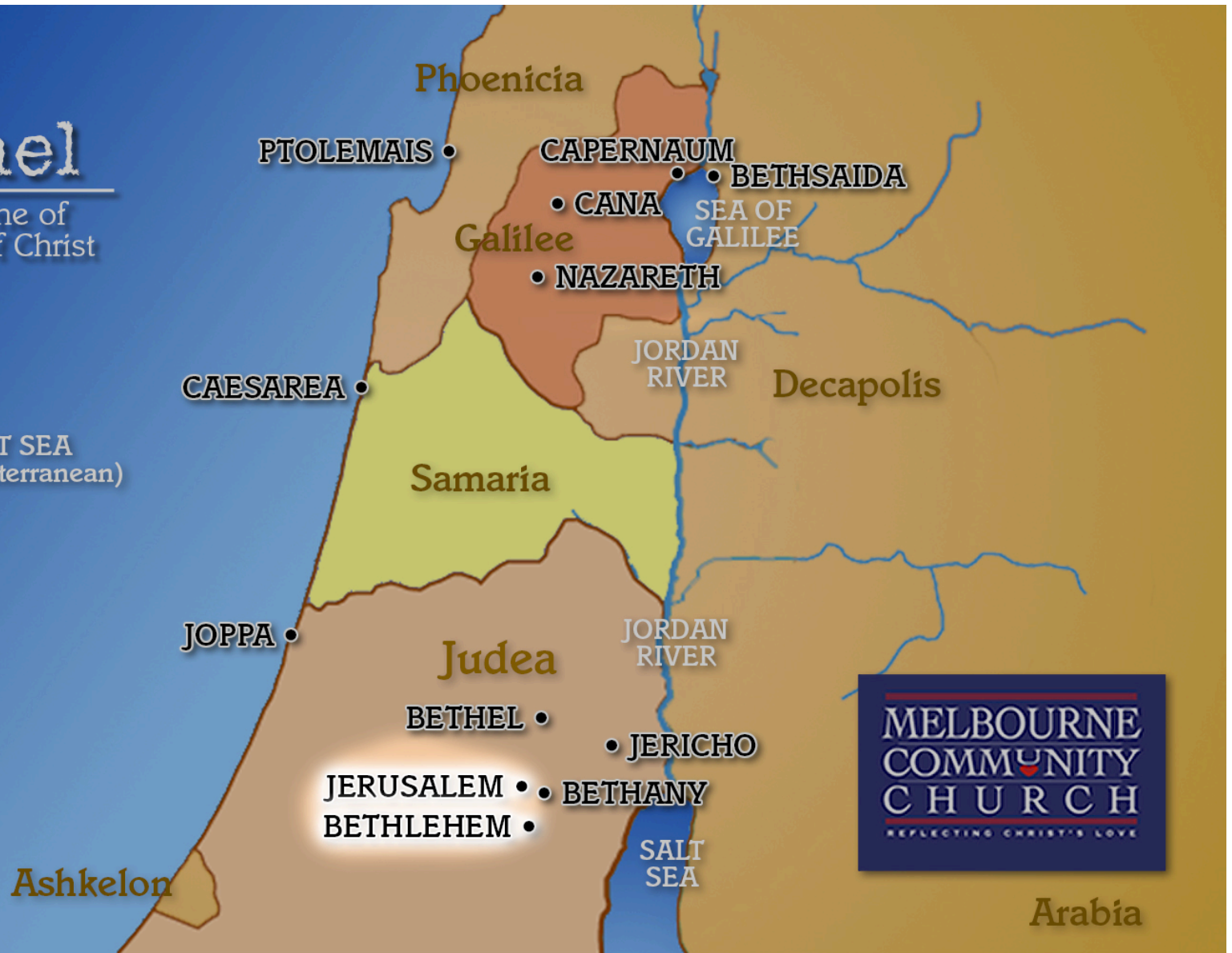
GREAT SEA  
(The Mediterranean)

Ashkelon



# Israel

at the time of  
the birth of Christ





The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone wall. Two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings are walking away from the camera on a path. The scene is outdoors, with some greenery visible at the bottom.

## Luke 2:25-26

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Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

# “righteous and devout”

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**Righteousness =**

- ❖ Right conduct
- ❖ Orthopraxy

**Devotion =**

- ❖ Right belief
- ❖ Orthodoxy

A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low wall of rough-hewn stones. The background shows more of the stone wall and some greenery. The text 'Luke 2:27' is overlaid in a white, stylized font at the top center of the image.

**Luke 2:27**

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**Moved by the Spirit, he went  
into the temple courts.**

## Luke 2:27-29

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When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.”

# Christmas Songs

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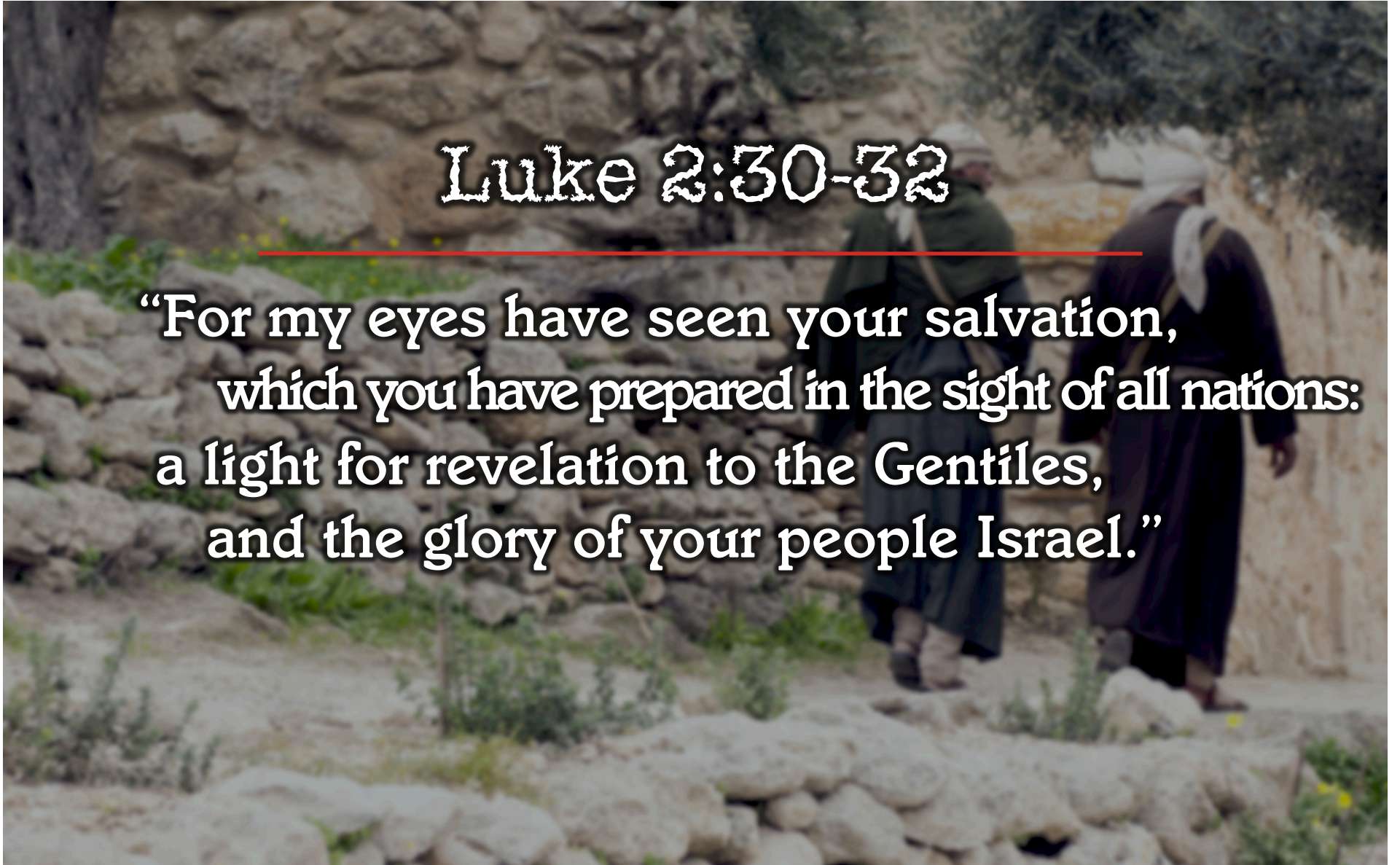
- ❖ *Magnificat*
- ❖ *Benedictus*
- ❖ *Gloria*
- ❖ *Nunc Dimittis*



## Luke 2:30-32

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“For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”





## Isaiah 49:6

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**“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach  
to the ends of the earth.”**



# “a light for revelation”

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❖ John 1:4-5

❖ John 1:9

❖ John 8:12

❖ John 9:5

❖ John 12:46

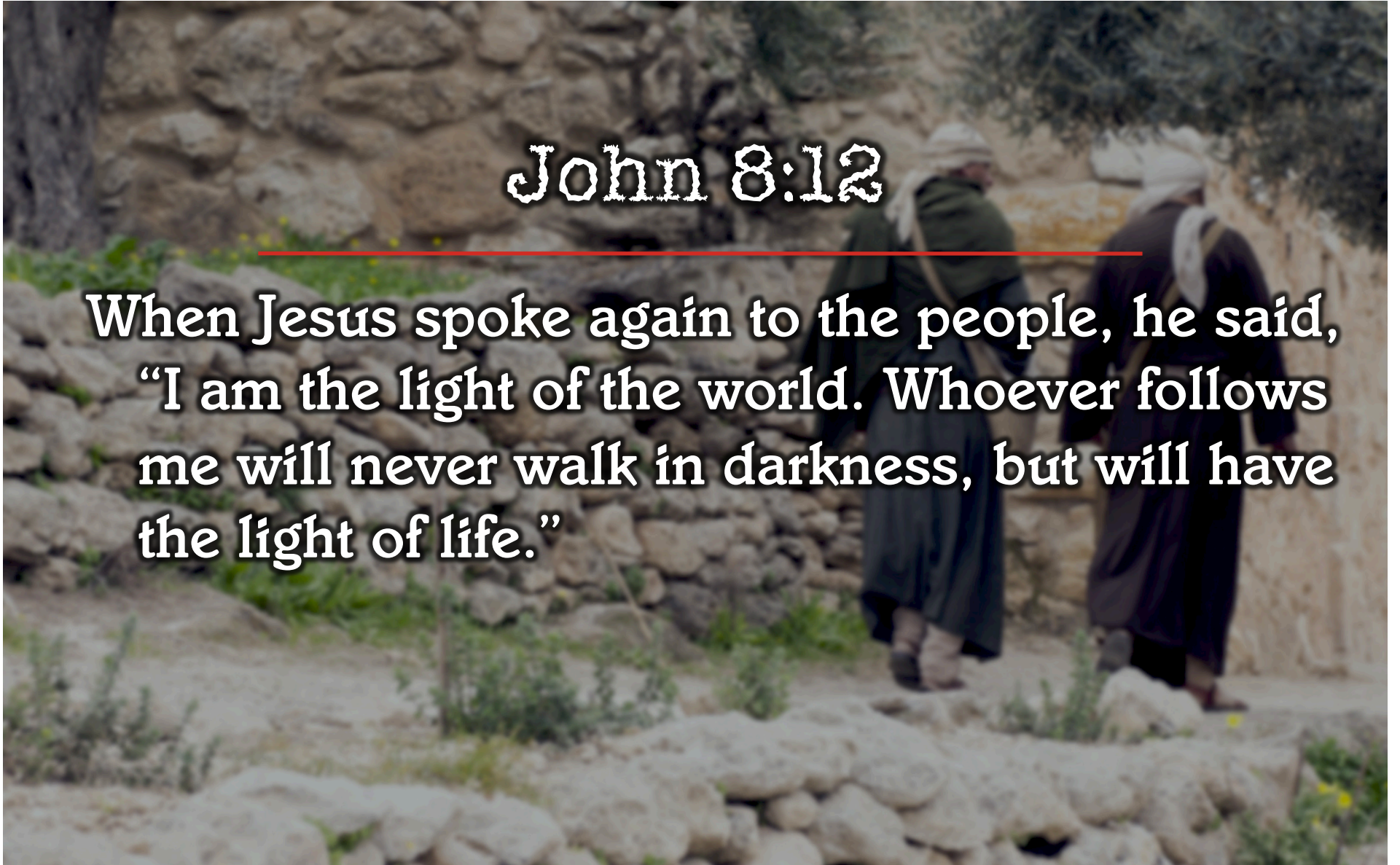
❖ Acts 26:22-23



## John 8:12

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When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



A photograph of two men in traditional, dark-colored robes and head coverings walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path is bordered by a low stone wall on the left and a taller, more solid stone wall on the right. The background shows a rocky hillside with some sparse green vegetation and a tree on the left. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be in a rural or historical setting.

**Luke 2:33**

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**The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.**

## Luke 2:34-35

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Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."



# “falling and rising”

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- ❖ Psalm 118:22
- ❖ Isaiah 8:13-15
- ❖ Isaiah 28:13-16
- ❖ Luke 20:17-18
- ❖ Romans 9:30-33
- ❖ 1 Peter 2:6-8



## Psalm 118:22-23

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The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
the LORD has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

## Luke 20:17

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Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?”

## Isaiah 8:13-14

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The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy,  
he is the one you are to fear,  
he is the one you are to dread.  
He will be a holy place;  
for both Israel and Judah he will be  
a stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.

## Isaiah 28:16

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So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
the one who relies on it  
will never be stricken with panic.”



## Romans 9:30-31

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What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal.

## Romans 9:32-33

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Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

## 1 Peter 2:9-10

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But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



## Luke 2:36-37

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There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.

## Luke 2:37-38

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She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

# “fasting and praying”

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- ❖ “the redemption of Jerusalem” (Anna)
- ❖ “the consolation of Israel” (Simeon)





**Darrell Bock:**

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**“Sometimes our most productive years in spiritual service for God come after our most productive years of earthly toil. She has given herself full-time to a ministry of intercession.”**

A background image showing a stone wall on the left and two people in traditional, dark, long-sleeved robes and head coverings walking away from the viewer on a path. The scene is outdoors with some greenery and a tree trunk visible on the left.

## Luke 2:39-40

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When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

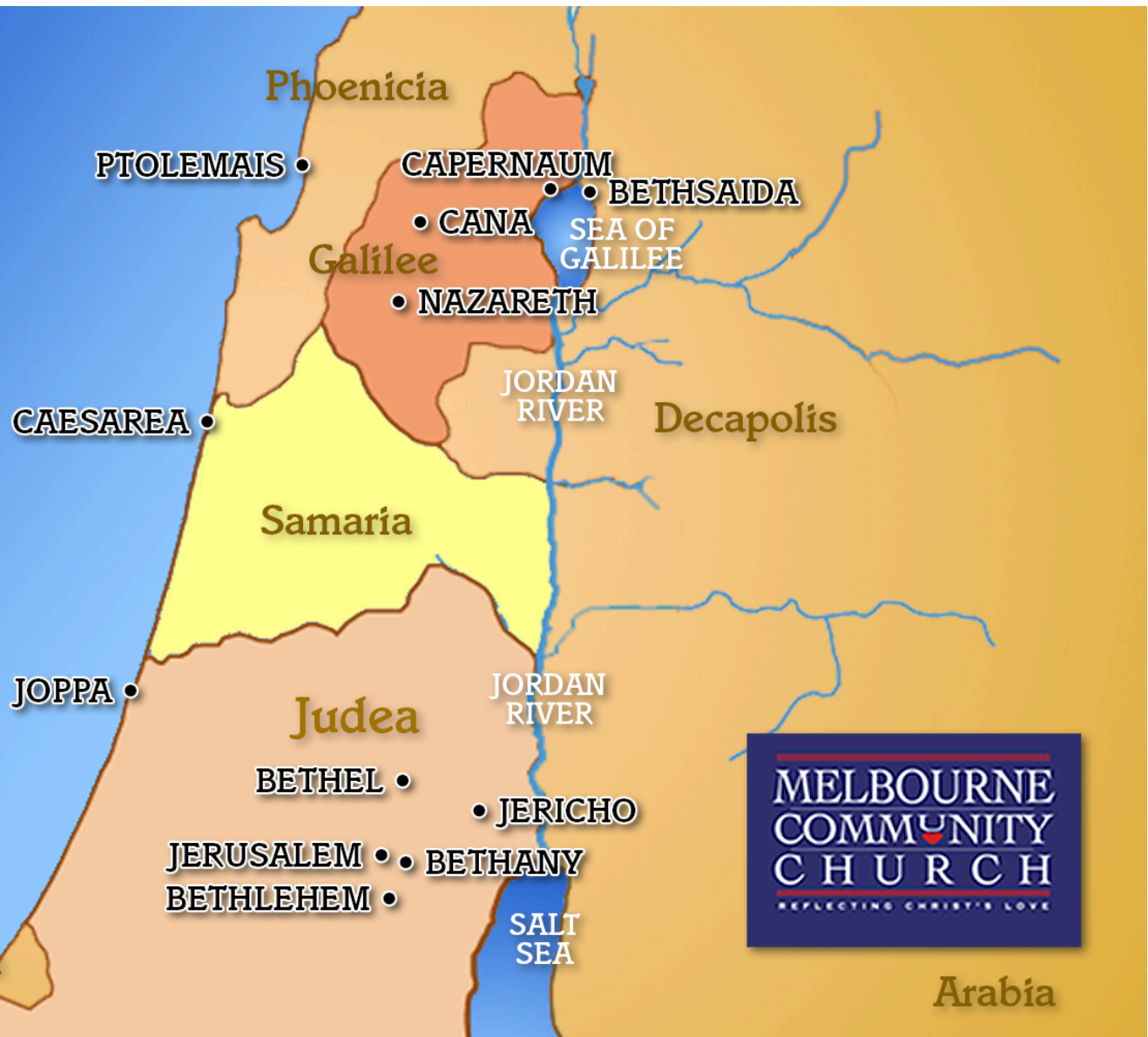


# Israel

at the time of  
the birth of Christ

GREAT SEA  
(The Mediterranean)

Ashkelon



**MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

# Israel

at the time of  
the birth of Christ



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## What have we learned?

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- ❖ Success and usefulness are defined by God.
- ❖ The Good News of Jesus requires a response.



# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

# Life Begins in the Womb

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❖ Luke 1:15

❖ Luke 1:41

❖ Psalm 22:9-10

❖ Psalm 139:13

❖ Isaiah 49:1

❖ Jeremiah 1:4-5

